



# THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

AUTUMN EDITION 2013



## Chairman's Report

As in previous years we have had a wide and varied programme for both the Monday and Thursday meetings with an excellent attendance at both. Considering the difficulties that some societies are having I think we can consider ourselves a relatively thriving society with a membership fairly steady at about 66.

The strength of any organisation lies not only with the committee but also with the help in setting up and putting away boards and tables etc after meetings. Thank you all and thanks also to the committee members for all their hard work and for making the committee meetings lively and interesting where Graeme and his wife Viv continue to welcome us.

Martin, as ever, does a sterling job with publicity and the newsletter, Club stamps etc are well managed by Dave with Ann, Juliet and Ian keeping us supplied with refreshments at our meetings and the catering for the Christmas party etc. The tea money raised at the meetings is, as you will see from the accounts, quite a substantial sum.

Westbex, despite the awful weather, was counted a success – thanks to all involved that made it so and thanks to George Goody for auditing our accounts for many years; his work has been much appreciated.

We have about 600 lots for our main auction in November and the auction committee have put a lot of effort into organising it. All in all a good year I think and a final thought for your consideration is that in 2016 the society will be 50 years old and we would like to commemorate this in some way – your ideas will be welcome.

Barney Bardsley, Chairman.

*Year 47*

*Issue 122*

### *Inside this issue:-*

*Front page – Chairman's report*

*Page 2 - Photographs*

*Page 3 - Past events*

*Page 4 - Past events*

*Page 5 - Past events and AGM report*

*Page 6 - Postcard page*

*Page 7 – Websites, Royal Mail Issues, Society data.*

*Back page – Club Stamps, Future Events, Society data.*



Jerry Wilson wins the Monday Cup again.

*For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact*

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*or  
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## Summer Photo Gallery



Tony Bosworth



Some of Tony's 1936 Olympics material



The Armorial Bearings of Lt. Col. Dickson



Malcolm Hoskins and his



- Bakelite Collection



Ian Keel's Machines



Barry's S.A. Air-mails



Juliet's Novelty cards



Graeme's Local cards.



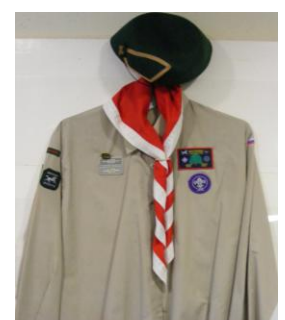
Simon's family documents



One of Tony Jordan's uniforms cigarette cards.

The Queens Coronation display pop-up montage.

Juliet's Scout Leader uniform



## PAST EVENTS

### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July

### The Monday Cup competition

There were a large number of entries for the 3-sheet competition – 14 in total!

The members had the usual voting slips to vote for subject and presentation and points were allocated to the entries as first choice 5 points, second 3 points and third 1 point.

When all were submitted and counted the results were as follows:-

In third place with 24 points was Martin Farr

In second place with 29 points was Ian Keel

The winner with 37 points was once again Jerry Wilson

Jerry was presented with the Monday Cup by Ian and the top fell off and broke again!

The time has come the meeting said

To gather the bits up,

And go to town and order soon

Another Monday Cup.

While the judging was taking place the members chose some subjects for the next series of meetings as follows:-

September 2<sup>nd</sup> – `Uniforms`                      October 7<sup>th</sup> – Q & A and `Junk Mail`

November 4<sup>th</sup> – `My favourite philatelic items`

December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Social, Quiz and `Christmas Stamps` theme.

To finish off a very good afternoon there were two mini auctions where 8 from 20 and 4 from 15 lots were sold.

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July

### The 1936 Berlin Olympics

From Coubertin`s dream to Hitler`s propaganda Tony Bosworth gave the club a riveting evening. With stamps, postal stationary, vignettes and more he illustrated a well-researched story of the changes to the Games from the first modern Olympics in 1896 to the 1936 Berlin Games. Germany was first selected for the 1916 games but WW1 put a stop to that and both Germany and Austria were excluded from the Olympic movement until 1925. Austria was selected for the 1936 Winter games with Germany the Summer.

Hitler came to power in 1933 and he was opposed to the games but Goebbels and Goering convinced him of the propaganda benefits of promoting a good image and an Aryan ideal.

Tony illustrated Austria`s successful Winter Olympics with a collection of postcards, stamps, slogan postmarks and handstamps. There was an issue of 8 stamps, a mini-sheet, advert cards and vignettes on the run-up to the Summer Games. There were 14 venues each with its own hand-stamp, (but only 1 slogan), meter marks and souvenir sheets.

Innovation was everywhere, The Olympic Bell, The Olympic Torch Run, The Olympic Village (not available to women), all of which had postal material which Tony showed. He had even obtained a couple of menus from the village! The Olympic Zeppelin, carrying mail bearing the special Olympic cachet, flew over the stadium and there was a well-organised press centre.

Many associated events took place including Greek and medieval plays, dancing and gymnastic displays, the Munich Chess Olympics and even the Dresden Horticultural and Philatelic Show! The Games, with the motto `Strength Through Joy` were a huge achievement and the pinnacle of Hitler`s popularity for several reasons – the cover-up was totally successful, Germany topped the medal table (the first time that the USA had been

beaten) and 1936 established that from now on the Games would always be political.

Tony concluded his wonderful display and talk with the hope that the excellent 2012 Games would now be the template for the future. The club was deeply grateful to him and his wife Lindy for travelling all the way from Maidstone, in less than ideal conditions, to give us such a treat.

Many thanks to Juliet for taking the notes for me and Graeme for the pictures – it was obviously a splendid evenings entertainment and I was sorry to have missed it! – Ed.

### **There was no Monday meeting held in August**

#### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **What I collect pt3 and mini-auctions**

**Malcolm Hoskins** started the proceedings with a great display of Bakelite items that he is collecting. The material was invented by Baekeland – a Belgian chemist living in New York – as the first thermo-plastic material and its original colour was a mottled dark brown. Malcolm showed a hot-water bottle, hair dryers, clocks, thermos flasks, and various other small objects – see the photograph for more items.

**Ian Keel** then showed us some sheets of his machins and a selection of reference data and catalogues on the collecting of them.

**Simon Dickson** then displayed some of his family history documents and manuscripts. These included old-style passports from 1874-5 – about A3 size – that were issued specifically for just one journey, several old family miniatures from the Empire days in India and the Far East, and a beautiful framed Armorial Bearings of Harold Richard Patrick Dickson who was a Lt. Col. in the Indian Army (see picture). What an interesting family background.

During the interval there were 3 mini-auctions where not a lot was sold.

**Barry Smith** started the second half with his South African Airmails. Lots of lovely covers and sheets covering the routes to S.A. and included was a cover from the fatal Comet plane flight crash of 1953.

**Graeme Stewart** displayed some of his extensive collection of local postcards and envelopes particularly from the Thatcham and Newbury areas including one of the old Cloth Hall - now the Museum - and a lovely old card of the Newbury-Lambourn express (see postcard page). These were followed by some mail from the U.S. Military base Ordnance Depot that was in Station Road in 1944.

Finally **Juliet Keel** showed some novelty postcards with inserts of various shapes and sizes (see postcard page) that reveal small pull-out sheets of associated pictures and data plus some comical cards that she has collected from all over the place! All very amusing.

#### **Monday 2nd September**

#### **Uniforms**

There were 18 present on a rather warm afternoon but 9 members displayed some items.

**Tony Jordan** started the proceedings with some Cinderella sheets of Swiss Army old uniforms and cigarettes cards of various services uniforms. **David Beddoes** presented lots of covers showing uniforms of the Police, Fire Service, Postmen, Rescue services and many more including the uniforms of sports teams. Quite a lot of interesting material.

**Juliet Keel** presented her nicely pressed Scout leaders uniform complete with her original



green hat, scarf and belt (but no woggle!) and showed some quite early cards of cubs, scouts and guides. **Martin Farr** showed combat scenes from the invasion of 1066 and the battle of Hastings and spoke about the new data re the actual location of the fighting. Then **Ian Keel** finished the first half with some scouting issue sheets, C.G.O. sheets and old uniforms. At half time there was a mini auction and 4 from 15 were sold.

**Malcolm Hoskins** started the second half with some large sheets of uniforms issued by Guernsey, sheets of various uniformed persons and activities and a lovely pop-up display item of the guards outside the Palace on the Queens Coronation day. **John Taylor** then showed some Gibraltar uniform sets from the 1969-76 issues. **Bob Paterson** was in the Royal Observer Corps from 1975-90 when the corps was trained to detect nuclear radiation and fall-out with what would be known now as very `dodgy` equipment. He showed some photos of him in uniform plus his LS&GC medal for 12 years seismic service. Then finally **Mike Gurr** – who served for 29 years in the fire service – showed sets of cards depicting the brigade from its early days, firemen in the old brass helmets, various pieces of apparatus and his medal for 25 years of service.

All in all a very entertaining and informative afternoon.

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

### **A.G.M, Social and mini auction**

The meeting commenced at 7.45 with the previous minutes being read and approved. There were no matters arising and so the Chairman gave his report for the year which can be read on the front page.

Mike Ward the treasurer gave his report and issued the new format accounts sheet which was so much easier to read and understand. There was an excess of £964 for the year much of which was due to Westbex and the raffle income. Thanks also to the tea ladies who collected the princely sum of £133 and to Dave with club stamps showing a profit of £697. George Goody could not continue with the accounts auditing and our President, John Baron, was constitutionally allowed to audit them which he did..

The new constitution was debated at some length which is based upon the A.B.P.S. model for societies. There were a few minor alterations to wording here and there and the last paragraph of the Management section relating to allocating services was deemed superfluous and was deleted. It was also finally agreed that our President, John Baron, was able to act as accounts auditor which he has done as per his terms of reference. The final version was accepted, proposed by Tony Jordan seconded by Sue Hopson and passed unanimously

The election of officers followed with most of the committee staying the same with the following changes:- Ian Keel has stepped down as vice chairman to be replaced by Mike Gurr

Bob Paterson was elected to the committee.

For the full listing please see the back page of this newsletter.

The subscriptions for next year will stay the same at £10 and Mike Gurr reported that the club box circuit is doing well with further boxes to be issued and that a good income (the society gets 10% of sales) is anticipated. If you would like to sell some stamps via the packet circuit or to be included in the delivery sequence then please get in touch with Mike at club meetings.

Will Roberts gave a report on Westbex 2013 regarding the receipts and costings. He thanked the Westbex committee of Graeme and Martin for the organisation and also all those who helped out on the Friday evening and Saturday sessions plus Ann Martin and her assistants for the well organised raffle.

There being no further business the AGM closed at 9.15 pm and there followed a fine spread of cheese and wine and lots of other goodies to eat provided by Ann and Juliet and assistants.

To finish the evening there was a 90 lot mini-auction organised by David Bedoes where quite a few items were sold.

## THE POSTCARD PAGE



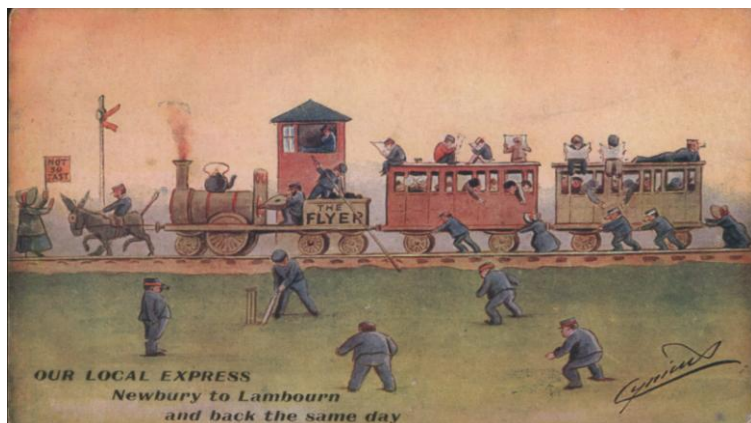
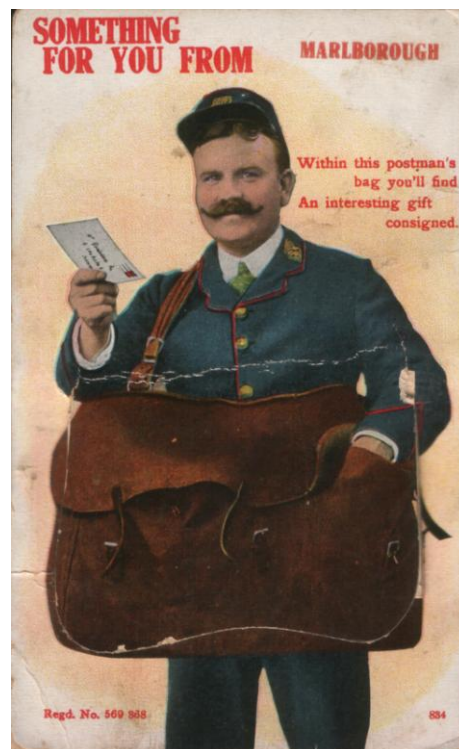
The old 16<sup>th</sup> Century Cloth Hall of Newbury – a relic of the days when it was the centre of the cloth industry. Now the Newbury Museum site which is undergoing a great renovation at last.

An early postcard from Marlborough and if you lift up his satchel lots of pictures of Marlborough fold out.

Sleeping Beauties of Salisbury – lift up the feet for the picture fold-out

Tho' these poor 'soles' have ne'er a boot  
No 'bootless' task I recommend  
You'll find their treasures underfoot  
If you but raise them up my friend.

A postcard of the Newbury-Lambourn 'Flyer'!  
There and back on the same day – Wow!



## USEFUL WEBSITES

Tony Bray for World new issues at [www.tonybray.co.uk](http://www.tonybray.co.uk)

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at [www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com)

The Society website with lots of data and links at [www.tdps.co.uk](http://www.tdps.co.uk)

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at [www.avionstamps.com](http://www.avionstamps.com)

**\*\*The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International\*\***

Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at [www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk)

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)

## Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

19 <sup>th</sup> September	The Merchant Navy
20 <sup>th</sup> September	Freshwater life – Rivers
10 <sup>th</sup> October	The Merchant Navy
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas issues

## The Society Auction in November

The auction lots will be available to view on club evenings and also at the October 12<sup>th</sup> stamp fair when we shall need assistance at the tables to handle and retrieve lots for viewing  
so

**CAN YOU GIVE UP A COUPLE OF HOURS ON THE FAIR DAY TO ASSIST US PLEASE.**

## Commander George Gibson, R.N., Retired (1931-2013)

We are sad to announce the recent death of George Gibson who had been a guest speaker with us on several occasions. George joined the Royal Navy in 1949 and built up his stamp collections on his travels around the world. Throughout his working life and into retirement he belonged to many philatelic societies. He joined the West African study circle and the Society of Postal Historians with an increasing emphasis on postal history.

On his retirement from the Navy George became the proprietor of a small canal mooring and service station at Pewsey on the Kennet and Avon canal and had many a philatelic discussion on the wharf with collector boat-owners. He was a hugely popular speaker at many societies, with a wide repertoire of five or more different displays.

George came to our society on several occasions and was regarded as a `must not miss` speaker. The favourite and most popular was his `Travels with a Donkey` - a changing mixture of worldwide philatelic interests, salty tales and details of tourism at the tax-payers expense! (incidentally, the Donkey in question was the nickname of the naval engines that are required to haul up ships anchors when leaving ports).

His talks and displays usually ended with George strongly exhorting the audiences to foster interests among the youth of today. In May this year, due to continuing ill health, 71 years of an absorbing hobby finally came to an end when he took the difficult decision to pass on his treasures for other collectors to enjoy.

Sadly George passed away peacefully in early July and those of us who were lucky enough to hear his talks will never forget the humour and relish with which he could tell a story about himself and those that he had met during a very busy and exciting life.

## THE BACK PAGE

### “Club Stamps” corner

**Club Stamps** are well looked after by **Dave Tanner** who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall.

**Accessories.** Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200 ) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95 ) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

### Future Programme and Events

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Uniforms
Wed-Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> October	STAMPEX at Islington, London
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	The A.G.M, 190 auction lots and cheese and wine etc
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Q`s and A`s and `Junkmail`
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	30 <sup>th</sup> Annual Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall

10am – 4pm in conjunction with the Thatcham

Festival of Arts and Leisure

Auction lots will be on view for our November Auction

Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	`From St Petersburg with Love` with Emily Woodhams
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Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	HAMPEX 10.00am to 4.30 pm
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Wickham community centre, nr Fareham

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	`My Favourite Philatelic Items`
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Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	The Society Annual Auction.
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Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Social Afternoon, Quiz and `Christmas Stamps`
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Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Social Evening with Quiz and Competitions
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Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Stamp fair at the Memorial Hall 10am – 4pm
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### A Sign of the Times?

In early July a sheet of the 10/- Blue `Seahorse` stamps was auctioned at Sotheby`s. One of only 2 sheets known, it had a lower estimate of £100,000! The sheet was one of 191 rarities being sold by the British Postal Museum and Archive to raise money for a new London venue for its collection. The sheet actually sold for £90,000 – below its lower estimate. At this auction only 15% of the lots were bought raising just £400,000 of the hoped-for £5million to help build a new museum!

#### Officers of the Club

<b>President</b>	John Baron	01235 820120
<b>Chairman</b>	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Mike Gurr	01635 43398
<b>Secretary</b>	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Ward	01635 864307
<b>Archivist</b>	Julia Wilson	

**WestBex**

**Packet Circuit**

#### Committee

Bob Paterson	01635 44848
Tony Jordan	01189 302279
Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457
<b>Publicity</b>	Martin Farr
Mike Gurr	